

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 20, 1962

Subject: Post-Cuban Situation in the Kremlin

QUESTION:

What effect do you believe Khrushchev's decision to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba has had on his position in the Kremlin leadership, i.e., have the Cuban developments strengthened or weakened Khrushchev's position?

SUGGESTED POINTS IN PRESIDENT'S REPLY:

I can't see that any useful purpose can be served by publicly speculating on what has transpired in the Kremlin during this crisis. What is important is Chairman Khrushchev's announced intention to remove offensive Soviet weapons systems from Cuba. I would not like to comment on why we believed this decision was reached nor on what effects this decision will have on Soviet policy either at home or abroad.